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Gweno language

Gweno (kighonu, to its inhabitants) is a Bantu language spoken in the North Pare Mountains in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania. The people known as the Gweno (or more properly *Asu*[4]) are a Chaga ethnic and linguistic group. Since the Chaga people are Bantu speakers, the adopted language contains dialects similar to that of the Kenyan language Kamba. Gweno shares about 54% to 56% of its vocabulary with other Chaga dialects and 46% with Taita dialects. However, a large percentage of its vocabulary is not seen in the other dialects.[5] Also at the start of the 11th century, the Chaga people descended and migrated from the Bantu group in which they migrated to the foothills of mount Kilimanjaro. The Gweno language is today spoken mostly by older adults, with younger generations having shifted to Asu and Swahili.[1] *Ethnologue* considers Gweno to be moribund;[1] the language is not being passed down because children have not been exposed to Gweno since the 1970s.[5] The generational shift from Gweno to either Asu or Swahili has certainly created shifts in dialect, however Gweno speakers do not see this as a threat.[4]

Gweno	
Kigweno	
Native to	Tanzania
Region	North Pare Mountains, Kilimanjaro Region
Ethnicity	2,200 (2006)[1]
Native speakers	(older adults)[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo ▪ Atlantic–Congo ▪ Benue–Congo ▪ Bantoid ▪ Bantu ▪ Northeast Bantu ▪ Chaga–Taita ▪ Chaga ▪ **Gweno**
Writing system	Unwritten
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	gwe
Glottolog	gwen1239 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/gwen1239)[2]
Guthrie code	E.65[3]

References

1. Gweno language (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/gwe/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Gweno" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/gwen1239). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. New Updated Guthrie List Online (https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf)
4. Phillipson, Gerard; Nurse, Derek. "Gweno, a little known Bantu language of Northern Tanzania" (http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/fulltext/Philippson/Philippson_2000.pdf) (PDF). CNWS Publications.
5. "Gweno: UNESCO-CI" (http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=10500&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html). *portal.unesco.org*. Retrieved 2017-02-10.

Further reading

- Sewangi, Seleman S. (2008). *Kigweno: Msamiati wa Kigweno–Kiswahili–Kiingereza / Gweno–Swahili–English Lexicon*. ISBN 9987-691-16-1.

External links

- Gweno Language (http://endangeredlanguages.com/lang/4254) at The Endangered Languages Project
- Numeral Systems (https://web.archive.org/web/20101230182112/http://lingweb.eva.mpg.de/numeral/Gweno.htm) found at LingWeb
- Gweno, a little known Bantu language of Northern Tanzania (http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/fulltext/Philippson/Philippson_2000.pdf)

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